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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:  
**MARTIN JAMES STARKEY et al.**) Group Art Unit 1771  
Serial No. 10/716,377 ) Examiner Lynda Salvatore  
Filed: November 18, 2003 ) Confirmation No. 4378  
For: SURFACE MATERIAL ) Attorney Docket 1-24916

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Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as indicated on the following pages.